

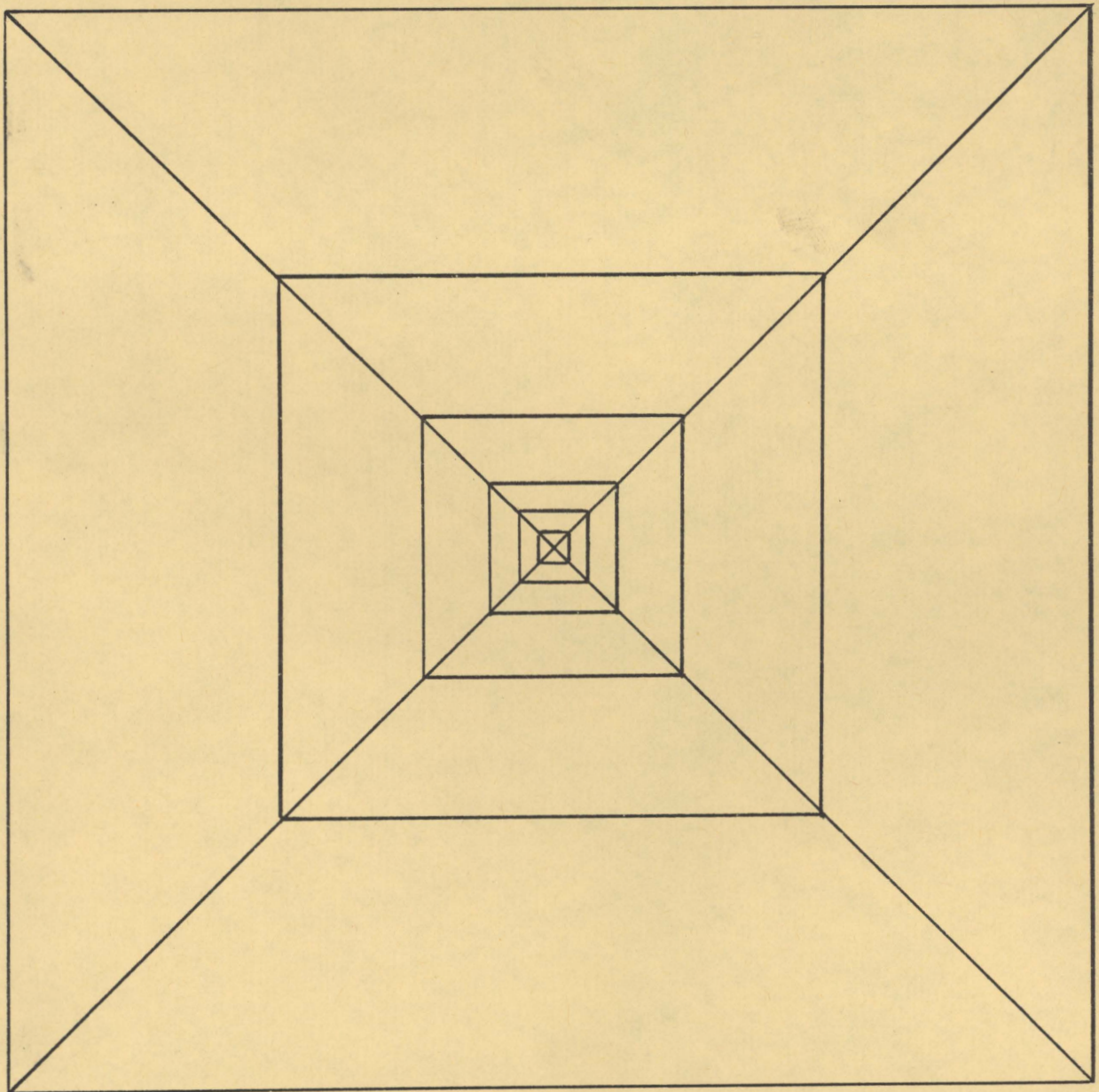
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Editorial by H. Griesberg & K. Basterfield

On the subject of funds, we would like to quote from the November 1979 issue of the IUR in which Dr. J. Allen Hynek states as follows:

"Big problems require big efforts... major, professional efforts. Anyone knowledgeable about UFOs knows that we have a big problem, and no major, professional effort has been brought to bear on it. Not that there haven't been those willing and able to do the job, but a truly professional attack on the UFO problem requires very ample funds... funds that just have not been available.

Years ago, an old professor told me that the most important letters in the phrase "fundamental research" were the first three. He was wrong. The most important are the first FOUR! For unless funds are available, the chances of progress are small. Science today is an expensive matter. Laboratory tests and equipment, travel, expert investigation, consultations with medical men, chemists, psychologists and engineers, plus study and eventual publication are very costly. Yet no amount of argument, no mountains of statistics, and no parade of UFO reports will create success and credibility; only incontrovertible proof that UFOs do not have a commonplace explanation can do that."

In recognition of the above, the Australian Centre for UFO Studies has opened a "UFO RESEARCH FUND" several months ago as everyone is aware. The fund will be properly used to finance research/investigation into the UFO phenomenon in Australia. But, in order to use these funds, one must first HAVE funds. As was announced, the major income for the fund is to be the Publications and donations.

As one respected investigator/researcher pointed out: "The Publishing Service and Research Fund are both terrific ideas, hope they work out, something we can all use. Without criticism though, I feel that depending on researchers to make donations will not be a big money spinner, and probably we have to depend more on money from sales of documented research material, journals, newsletters etc."

He has hit the nail right on the head. We realise that all serious researchers and investigators spend enormous amounts of money out of their

own pockets for the sake of research, and therefore it would not seem fair to put an extra burden on their resources. We therefore have to depend heavily on the sale of items available through the Publishing Service. This will be our major money spinner and source of income. To date, response to the items for sale has been extremely poor, with only two orders having been received. Therefore, we ask that you alert your members, and anyone else interested in the UFO phenomenon about the publications we have available. It is only with the money received from these that we can publish further items as well as finance other, sometimes important projects that all too often are left unattended through lack of finance.

Meteor Debris from Halley's Comet

by D. Seargent

Like all comets, Halley's is gradually disintegrating and leaving, as it does, a ring of meteoric debris around its orbit. Now, as the earth orbits the sun, it passes very close to the orbit of Halley's twice every year - in early May and again in late October - and, on each occasion, a shower of meteors results which (very probably) is the result of comet debris colliding with our upper atmosphere. The first is called the n-Aquarid shower and lasts from about 1 - 8 May, yielding some 20 meteors per hour at maximum. The second is called the Orionid shower and is active from October 16 - 26, giving about 30 meteors per hour at maximum, some of which show fine trains. Both showers are seen in the latter half of the night.

As Halley's Comet is due back near the sun again in less than six years time, it will be interesting to see what happens to these showers during the next few years. Any reports of swift-moving nocturnal lights in the early morning hours during these dates should also be looked into as being possible pieces of Halley's comet. At its next return, the comet will be nearest to the sun on February 9, 1986 and will pass nearest to the earth (not very close however) on April 11, by which time it will already be beyond the orbit of the earth and moving away. The earth will be closest to the comet's ORBIT (NOT to the comet itself) on May 8th, at which date the n-Aquarid meteor shower should be most active. The comet will have passed through that spot some seven weeks earlier, and IF there is going to be a strong meteor shower, I would think that that date would be the time.

By contrast, at its last return in 1910, the earth passed that spot before the comet (the comet was nearest the sun on April 20, 1910, and still inside the earth's orbit during early May). There does not seem to have been any dramatic meteor activity then.

Nevertheless, the comet itself provided a show in 1910 which, unfortunately will not be repeated in 1986 viz. its tail stretched for an unusually long arc across the sky. This cannot be repeated in 1986, because the 1910 return involved a very unusual set of circumstances which made that return virtually unique.

If lines are drawn from the earth and sun to the comet, the angle made by these lines, at the nucleus of the comet, is known as the phase angle, and it can have any value from zero to 180 degrees, the latter occurring only when the comet is directly between the earth and the sun (something which rarely happens). It can be shown mathematically that the angular length of a comet's tail (i.e. as we see it in the sky) must always be less than the value of the phase angle, irrespective of how long it is in kilometers. Thus, a comet's tail can never reach 180 degrees, although it may approach it if a very narrow (we might almost say freakish) set of circumstances prevail viz. if the head of a comet passes directly between earth and sun and the tail reaches out beyond the earth. As far as I know, the only recorded case of this happening to its full extent was on May 18, 1910 when Halley's passed in front of the sun and the earth passed through its tail. Just before this happened, calculations suggest that the tail should have, virtually, spanned the entire dome of the sky and, in confirmation of this, a number of people who saw the comet at that time remarked that the tail did in fact reach from the north-east (where the head

was rising just before dawn) and in the south-west, and was described as looking "like the rays of a powerful searchlight".

In 1986, calculations suggest that the tail will be about 20-30 (just possibly 40) degrees during the latter part of March and early April, when the total brightness of the comet will be at its maximum of about third or fourth magnitude.

A Look at the available information on the 21st December 1978 New Zealand Incidents.

by K. Basterfield.

Although much has been published on the incidents a summary of the reports will be presented here for those who may not be aware of some of the finer points.

At about 2350 hours (local time) 20th December 1978 a Mr. Bill Frame, a flight service officer at Blenheim RNZAF base (Woodbourne) on his first night on duty in the control tower reported observing 3 bright lights off Cape Campbell. "One appeared to emit a shaft of light like an aircraft landing light but much brighter," he said. (2) The lights appeared to move upwards and around in a rectangular pattern at random speed. There seemed to be one large bright orange light and two less intense white lights at a bearing of about 60 degrees true. Duration 50 minutes. (Ireland 1979) There was some media speculation that Wellington air traffic controllers picked up these lights on their radar. However it is evident from New Zealand sources that the radar at Wellington did not pick up targets at this time at this location, but near Clarence River, further down the east coast of the South Island. (2)

An Argosy aircraft left Blenheim at 0035 hrs 21st, to travel to Christchurch when the crew observed an unusual object some time after take off. The crew consisted of Captain John Randle, aged 45, a pilot with 28 years experience, and First Officer Keith Heine, aged 32. An object "giving off an intense white light, too powerful to be a vehicle's headlamps", was observed. It was said to be airborne and that its light was very intense. Captain Randle was quoted as saying, "I could see land features lit up underneath it as it passed." No radio report was made by the crew at that time. (3) Further details given were that the object went under the aircraft at an estimated 120 knots with a very bright light shining downwards and other whirling lights. (Ireland 1979). Prior to the above two incidents and then later at about this time, i.e. midnight, Wellington radar detected targets. Senior radar controller John Cordy aged 45 and precision talkdown controller Andy Herd, 25, were awaiting the late arrival of an Air New Zealand DC-8 from Sydney, and observed radar targets with strong echoes. (3)

Mr. Herd reported: "We seemed to be able to pick up 5, moving up and down the coast. It is difficult to tell if we saw more than five or less moving very fast." The location of the targets was south of the Clarence River area. (2) Wellington control tower called Christchurch airport and were advised that Christchurch could also pick up the targets. Christchurch reported that the targets were apparently travelling off the coast in a 16 KM quadrant over the sea. At about 3 am Wellington radar picked up a large echo 48 KM away. Mr. Cordy said: "It appeared to hover there for some time. Abruptly it moved at 120 knots to a point 80 KM SE and stayed there at least 30 minutes." (3) Maccabee in his report adds that the position of the target was 160 degrees azimuth and that when the target moved it left a continuous track to this second point. Meanwhile the 5 targets off the Kaikoura coast were still evident. About 0330 hrs a second Argosy plane took off from Blenheim heading for Christchurch, flying roughly the same course.

Mr. Cordy radioed the crew of the plane and asked them if they could get a visual observation of a radar target which Wellington painted on their screens as 20 KM starboard of the plane. The crew, Captain Vern Powell, aged 55, with 18,000 hours flying experience, and First Officer Ian Pirie, aged 31, looked but couldn't see anything.

Within a matter of seconds they were asked to check a position 40 KM to port as the radar target had apparently moved to that position. The crew observed a light in that direction. Captain Powell said: "If it went behind a cloud we could still see the glow, then it would pop back into sight, an intensely light." (2)

Pirie spotted a bright white light with an intermittent reddish light, which seemed to change hue back and forth noticeably. They approached to within several kilometres as indicated by the plane's weather radar, and levelled off at 3200 metres remaining on course. As they picked up speed the light seemed in the same position relative to them. Mr. Cordy said that these radar targets were at least as big and as solid as the Argosy plane. The crew watched the light for some 10-12 minutes before they had to turn 60 degrees starboard to keep on track, off Kaikoura. The object then seemed to lag behind and vanished. Wellington radar shortly afterwards lost their target. (3)

As Argosy two neared Motunau Island, the onboard radar picked up a moving signal off Banks Peninsula. Captain Powell and his co-pilot watched in amazement as the object sped across 24 KM in only 5 seconds before veering sharply right, a speed of more than 17,000 KM/hr. "It could have gone further across the screen before disappearing," Captain Powell said, "When we looked out we could see a white light hovering." (2)

The object was apparently streaking across their path. Captain Powell in most other sources is credited with saying that he got a view of a bright white, flashing light which shot past at speed, then turned right towards them. Christchurch's radar has a blind spot 40 KM seawards at this spot and were unable to spot this object. Meanwhile the first Argosy plane had taken off from Christchurch and was headed for Auckland at the top of the north island, on a direct route which took it up the south island's coast. It had already past the first plane when Wellington radar asked Captain Randle to watch out for unusual objects. At first they saw nothing, then they spotted the five objects still offshore from the Clarence River area. Mr. Cordy said: "Captain Randle radioed that he was turning around for a better look. He reported, 'Yes, we can see them...they're white tinged with amber...passing 16 KM south of us...they're reflecting off the water... definately not distress flares... estimate 150 metres above the water.'" (3)

The plane completed an orbit around the objects before it resumed its northerly course. Captain Randle said: "As we flew on we saw on our own radar what appeared to be three large surface vessels moving down the South Island coast, very close inshore. Then we got a visual sighting on them. Two carried lights the other didn't. One of them appeared in shoaling waters. The whole thing was strange because you wouldn't consider that stretch of coast safe for any kind of shipping in any circumstances." (3)

These then are the reported observations. Additional information came in the form of taped interviews with Vern Powell and John Cordy which appeared on Australian television. As these interviews may not have been repeated elsewhere transcripts follow:-

VERN POWELL: Interviewed by Quentin Fogarty

VP "The first officer Ian Pirie and myself looked out and Ian first of all saw it and he said 'Goodness look at that!' or words to that effect and there was this massive bright light slightly ahead of our port wing, but out to the left of us. We couldn't really see how far away it was from us but it was out to the left of us."

QF "It was airborne?"

VP "It was definately airborne. In fact it was above us. I think Ian said, when we started to turn, we'll give a description to radar. Our co-pilot doing the radar, who was doing the radio work told them it was definately airborne and certainly it was definately airborne."

QF "How did you feel at this stage?"

VP "When I realised that there was certainly something there that we couldn't explain, I must admit the back of my neck went creepy for a while, but then I feel I really got excited about it, wondering what on earth it was. It was a very bright light with a red tinge. A bright light with a red tinge every now

and again.

GF "I believe it followed you down the coast for a while."

VP "Yes. Radar told us this. We levelled out at 10,000 feet, looked out and it was still there, and I said it was in the same place to radar which it shouldn't have been I thought if it was something stationary, but they said they'd had something which is hovering in that area and then they told us it had been following us for a period of time. It was tracking us. On the way into Christchurch we had our radar on still. Our radar screen has got a scope on it, that has a strobe across the screen about approximately every second, perhaps a little fraction longer than a second. We picked up a blip just, oh just over the 40 mile scale from us. The next time it strobed back again which was just over a second later it was about 39 miles. The next time it would have been 37 miles, then 35, 33, this sort of thing. Of course it was moving so fast it wasn't lighting up where it had been before, so the blip from the second before was still there although it was fading, so you could see the trail from where it was. When we first picked it up and then it did a dramatic, well not a dramatic, but a sudden turn to the right."

QF "Was it coming for you at this stage?"

VP "Yes. It was coming straight at us at this stage. Towards us."

QF "What sort of speed was it travelling at?"

VP "Well. If you work it out. About 15 miles in 5 seconds. 5 into 60 goes 12, 12 by 15, multiplied by 60 and you get around about the 1,000 mph (sic) mark."

JOHN CORDY Interviewed by Quentin Fogarty.

QF "John, you were on duty that night in the radar room. Can you tell us your feelings at the time?"

JC "One of great excitement really. I think I've never had a night quite like that before in the whole time I've been an air traffic controller. It was really exciting, certainly that shift passed a lot quicker than a lot of others I've been on."

QF "Do you believe in UFOs?"

JC "I've got an open mind on them. I didn't know what they are. I've got an open mind, Yes."

QF "But there were definitely some unidentified flying objects in the area that night?"

JC "There certainly were. There were things there that I can't explain."

QF "Could they have been such things as clouds and maybe even surface traffic on a road or even a ship at sea?"

JC "I don't think so because there were too many factors involved. We had people on the ground in the Blenheim tower seeing things. We had pilots in the air seeing things and we had us in the control centre here seeing things on radar. I wouldn't expect to see a car on the road at Clarence. A ship at sea? Yes, a large container vessel, we have seen them in the past on radar and we certainly shall see them again. But they move slowly and distinctly. They have a motion all their own. Aircraft have a motion all their own but these things were random almost one could say."

QF "There was one particular puzzling aspect of this. This was the object you picked up while it was stationary and yet your object is not supposed to pick up stationary things."

JC "That's right we picked up an object. It tracked out on a steady course to 50 miles and then stopped. Now when it stopped theoretically it should have disappeared. We checked with Kelburn weather office. They had launched a balloon, but the balloon had burst 30 minutes previous to our enquiry. The track of the object was in fact consistent with the winds at that time but I wouldn't expect a burst weather balloon to stop there for 30 minutes at least. It was at least 30 minutes we saw it hovering there. It may have even been longer."

QF "What sort of size would these objects need to be to be picked up by your radar?"

JC "Well, they would need to be above the minimum resolution size for the radar. I'm afraid I don't have an accurate figure for you but to give you an idea we can see gliders and light aircraft, the size of turbulence, ultra light aircraft, we can see them on our radar. So it wouldn't have to be terribly big."

Reports:

We therefore have seven separate defined incidents to examine. These being:

- | | | | | |
|----|--------|----------|------------|--|
| 1. | 2350 | 20.12.78 | Blenheim | Lights in the sky |
| 2. | Ca0000 | 21.12.78 | Wellington | Radar targets off Clarence |
| 3. | Ca0035 | 21.12.78 | Argosy 1 | Randle and Heine see white light below plane |
| 4. | 0300 | 21.12.78 | Wellington | Target 48 KM moves to 80 KM |
| 5. | Ca0330 | 21.12.78 | Argosy 2 | Powell and Pirie see white light |
| 6. | Ca0410 | 21.12.78 | Argosy 2 | White light streaks in front of plane |
| 7. | Ca04? | 21.12.78 | Argosy 1 | Randle reports five lights off Clarence area |

Discussion: In looking at these incidents it must be remembered that I am examining them for possible causes based on the detail currently available to me.

1. Ireland (1979) suggests that Jupiter (maghitude -2.1) which rose at 2320 at 65 degrees E and would have been 4.5 degrees above the horizon 59.9 degrees E, and by 0040, 12.2 degrees altitude, 50.8 degrees E, was the cause of this observation. Maccabee disagrees & appears to be more correct in his conclusion/ that they were not Jupiter.
2. Wellington radar is reported to have picked up targets from the area of Clarence at about the same time as the reported observation of lights from Blenheim. Perhaps an important point to be noted was a comment by John Cordy during the interview with Fogarty, when he said, "...but these things were random almost one could say," when referring to the movement of the targets.

Little information has been published on the nature of these targets, other than they were off Clarence moving around in a 16 KM quadrant. Due to this lack of concrete data it is really impossible to pin down a cause at this stage. Ireland (1979) reports anomalous returns were picked up on the Wellington radar on 31 Dec, 3 Jan and 8 Jan besides this occasion. These returns on 8 Jan were apparently associated with a temperature inversion. The presence of such an inversion meant that areas such as Banks Peninsula, normally over the radar horizon was visible. Also surface shipping was visible on the screen. Most of the anomalous returns were in the area off the Kaikoura coast/Cape Campbell.

On 8 Jan, on 18 different occasions contact was made with a group of visual observers on the Kaikoura coast. On two occasions bearings given identified shipping. No other visual targets were noted. The refractivity profile for Christchurch at 2300 hrs 20.12.78 shows there was a sufficient gradient below 1 KM to cause radar propogation effects, (Ireland 1979) Maccabee comments: "One might expect a non-MTI display to show ground and sea clutter at greater distances than would be normal."

These comments are suggestive that further investigation needs to be made into the 21.12.78 observations involving the Wellington radar. Dr. Neil Cherry, a research worker at Lincoln College, Christchurch was quoted as indicating that he believed the targets to be anomalous propagation effects. (4)

3. This observation was made shortly after 0035 hrs, but scarce details have been given. It appears that an intense white light, airborne, lit up the land features below it. The only serious suggestion made was the possibility of an illegal deer hunt by helicopter with spotlight. (5)

4. The most peculiar radar observation of this series was this one. Wellington radar picked up at 0300 hrs a target 48 KM, 160 degrees from Wellington which moved at 120 knots to 80 KM, 160 degrees where it became a stationary target for some 30 minutes. The peculiarity exists in the fact that the radar in its MTI mode is meant to remove any target travelling at less than 15 knots and not display it. Yet there was a stationary target! It was suggested (5) that a hovering helicopter would still be picked up. Maccabee suggests that stationary targets could be shown if they could "change the phase of the return signal or shift its frequency slightly". No one has yet put forward a satisfactory explanation.
5. Wellington painted a target 20 KM starboard to the Argosy aircraft whose crew couldn't see anything visually. The crew then looked to port and noted an object. The tape transcript gives the object as slightly ahead of the port wing and based on the reported location of the plane this places the azimuth as approximately 90 degrees, apparently at about 0340-0345 hrs. According to reports it was a) behind clouds at times, b) within several kilometres according

to the plane's radar, c) same line of sight until they changed course when it dropped behind them and vanished from view.

More investigation is needed into the azimuth of the object, and the plane's location as well as accurate timings for the observation. It was apparently not a visual observation of Jupiter (too far north at this time) nor Venus (105 degrees azimuth, 4 degrees altitude according to the rising curves shown in Ireland).

On top of this there is also the verbal comments that the object appeared to be following the aircraft.

6. This incident was described only in brief. A white, bright, apparently flashing light was noted visually and on onboard radar, travelling at high speed. No natural explanation has been put forward in the literature so far. However, on the details available I would like to suggest a possibility.

It may well be that it was in fact a meteor. Blackmer et al (1969) refer to the observation of meteors on radar via the trail of ionisation which is left in the atmosphere. He comments because of the small cross section of the trail, meteor ionization is detectable only when the radar beam intercepts the trail at right angles. Press reports maintain that the white object (right colour for meteor) streaked across the path of the plane, then turned right. Captain Powell relates it then appeared to be approaching them at this stage. No more can be stated unless further details are obtained.

7. Our final incident of this night occurred when Captain Randle viewed five objects still off the Clarence River area and the plane orbited them. Captain Randle's comment was that they were white tinged with amber, reflecting on the water. Randle himself said (2): "There was nothing I saw that could not have been reproduced by the Air Force with an Iroquois helicopter. It would have been completely possible for a Japanese or Russian whaling fleet to do these things."

No currently available natural explanation has come to light.

Summary: Out of the 7 incidents my comments on possible causes are:

(1) Unknown, (2) anomalous atmospheric propagation effects, (3) illegal deer hunting helicopter, (4) radar only-unidentified, (5) radar/visual-unidentified, (6) meteor, (7) unknown.

As can be seen there is a serious need for an in-depth investigation of all the 21st December 1978 New Zealand incidents. The sooner the better.

Sources:

- (1) "New Zealand radar-visual and film cases" MUFON Journal no 132, Nov/Dec 1978
- (2) NZ "The Dominion" newspaper, 23.12.78 and 2.1.79
- (3) "Australian" newspaper 3.1.79
- (4) "Dominion" 10.1.79
- (5) "Australian" 10.1.79

Basterfield, K "New Zealand radar-visual and film cases" MUFON Journal no 132, Nov/Dec 78 pp 3-5.

Blackmer et al "Radar and the observation of UFOs", Chapter 5 of "Scientific study of unidentified flying objects", Uni of Colorado, Bantam, 1969.

Fogarty, Q Tape recording of talk given at UFOCON 4, Sydney, Oct 79.

Ireland, W "Unfamiliar observations of lights in the night sky", DSIR report no 659, Dec; 1979.

Maccabee, B "What really happened in New Zealand", unpublished manuscript, 1979. Also see MUFON Journal, no 135, May 79 pp 9-14, and 136 June 79, pp 12-17

Other sources reviewed:

1. "The Dominion" 23.12.78 - 2.1.79 - 10.1.79 - 17.1.79 - 26.1.79.
2. "The Australian" 23.12.78 - 27.12.78 - 3.1.79 - 10.1.79.
3. New Zealand UFO Studies Centre, special issue no 4.
4. "Evening Post" 27.12.78
5. Various Television and radio news reports, especially channel 0-10 Adelaide documentary February 1979.

Human-Alien Sex: Close Encounters of the Foreign Kind.

by John Prytz.

Ever since 1947, but more frequently since CE3K and "abduction" UFO cases have become popular in books and journal/newspaper articles, reports have been made of sexual contact, even sometimes with resulting conception taking place, between willing or unwilling human beings and extraterrestrials. These reports vary from the seemingly credible to the obviously sensational hoaxes of the "true confession" kind. A common example of the latter, easily found in sensationalist literature, will be headlines proclaiming "I was Raped By A Martian In A Flying Saucer!" However.....

Many writers have been recently putting forth theories that the origin of Homo sapiens, thus far unsatisfactorily explained except in very broad and general terms by traditional physical anthropologists, just might be a result of sexual (genetic) manipulation (breeding) by outsiders (extraterrestrials). Thus, mankind is not a product of natural selection from the zoological family Hominidae (order Primates), but a result of artificial selection, controlled by aliens! This of course could mean artificial selection of the Primate stock to produce what would of otherwise been an unnatural development - man, intelligence and civilisation. This is the theme of Arthur C. Clarke's well known science fiction novels "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Childhood's End" and more recently James P. Hogan's excellent novels "Inherit the Stars" and the sequel to it "The Gentle Giants of Ganymede". Of course, it could also mean we are genetically related to this alien race and that there is no "missing link" between man and ape. The link is missing because there is no link at all! Thus, some suggest that man was not a result of selection, natural or artificial, from other Primates, but some sort of extraterrestrial colony and/or biological experiment conducted by aliens if you will! If this latter idea is correct, it is reenforced by, and in turn reenforces the credibility of, these close encounters of the sexual kind! If the idea is incorrect, if there is no direct and historical genetic relationship between Homo sapiens and extraterrestrials, if traditional physical anthropology and biological evolutionary theory can prove the descent of man from Primates, then all reports of alien-human sexual contact in the present must be taken with a grain of salt, probably even less. Either that or somebody had better produce a hybrid baby, such as in John Wyndham's novel "The Midwich Cuckoos" or as in the stories of The People by Zenna Henderson ("Pilgrimage" and "The People: No Different Flesh").

Only if we (Homo sapiens) are biologically related to UFO occupants do reports of alien-human sexual contact make sense. Assuming there to be no extraterrestrial biological ancestry, which most UFO writers, at least the serious ones, do, sexual encounter stories are stretched in credibility to the breaking point. If one takes one aspect seriously (either sexual encounters or alien ancestry), one must take both aspects seriously, and vice versa. Why?

Because the odds that two independently evolved biological creatures would evolve two sets of sexual equipment, that would be compatible with each other, make being dealt ten consecutive royal flushes seem almost a certainty in comparison!

Consider. What are the odds that aliens would have evolved two sexes, male and female? One (or asexual) sex is likely, such as in many of our lower invertebrates and plants. Asexual reproduction overcomes the problem of "getting together" but at the expense of genetic variability. Three sexes is not improbable either, as Isaac Asimov showed in his novel "The Gods Themselves". Even four or more sexes could be viable. But....

Assuming two sexes for our alien friends, what would be the odds that the "equipment", internal and external would be the exact same as it is in Homo sapiens, and in the same locations? Even terrestrial bisexual animals have many variations on this theme! But...

Given that "they" do have "equipment" the same as ours, multiply the odds against compatibility on the microscopic scale. Would extraterrestrials have eggs and sperm as we know it? If so, would the sex cells be in, what to us would

be, the "right" sexes? As long as the sex cells get together in a suitable environment, it matters little what sex injects what sex cell into what other sex! But....

If so, would extraterrestrial sex cells have evolved the exact same number of chromosomes as human sex cells (23), assuming they used that particular cellular structure in the first place? Would each and every chromosome contain the exact number (in the hundreds of thousands mind you) of genetic traits (genes), traits not only compatible but identical with ours (what if the aliens had green scales?) AND in the very same relative location on the chromosome? But....

If so, and finally, would alien biochemistry be compatible with ours in order for conception to proceed?

No, on any level, macro, micro, or chemical, if one assumes complete independent evolution of extraterrestrial intelligences and human beings, then we would have much more of a chance of successfully mating with a carrot than with any extraterrestrial UFO occupants.

But, assuming such sexual encounters have taken place and can be verified, the implications argue very strongly that we are biologically related to creatures from the stars. Thus our heredity is common to theirs and their sexual abilities, ways and means would obviously match ours. (some would counter that sexual encounters with UFO occupants suggests stronger evidence not for a common human-alien ancestry, but for UFOs being terrestrial time machines - human visitors from our own future (some suggest past - visitors from an advanced earthly, but remote in time, ancient civilisation). However, time travel opens up more cans of worms than I care explore here - science fiction writers have already done this hundreds of times over.)

However, I personally doubt these close encounters of the sexual kind are valid as actual physical happenings, though I don't doubt the "victims" honestly believe they actually occurred. The human mind can play some very strange, but seemingly realistic tricks on us, and the borderline between reality and fantasy is not always as cut and dried as we would expect. The reader is directed to read Allan Hendry's "The UFO Handbook" (1979) and C.G. Jung's "Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies" (1959) for further and in the latter case more expert information on this, and the article by Joel Greenberg "Close Encounters: All in the Mind?" (Science News, 17 February 1979 - p. 106-107). Therefore, the theory of an alien race being the parents of Homo sapiens (or the time travelers theory) is just that much more doubtful.

If, and oh what a big "if", there were exact parallels between our sexual equipment and processes, and those of our theoretical alien parents, then it is more than reasonable to assume exact, or very nearly so, parallels in all other anatomical and physiological areas; not just superficial (like two legs and arms, a central body and single head on top, hands and feet, fingers and toes etc.), but so exact that these extraterrestrials (or time travellers) would be indistinguishable from any typical man-in-the-street. Descriptions of UFO occupants by CE3K witnesses do not suggest such an exact parallel. They resemble humanoids, but not humans. (in contrast, the "contactees" of the 50's and 60's did claim this, but as has been demonstrated, any similarity between their stories and reality is purely a matter of coincidence. There is very little common ground between the "contactee" and the CE3K witness and/or victim.) If CE3K witnesses claimed what the "contactees" had claimed about the physical appearance of UFO occupants (human, not humanoid), then that fact would reinforce the close encounters of the sexual kind, hence theories of an extraterrestrial ancestry for mankind in the "recent" past (or of time travelers, depending on whatever turns you on).

There is not only a lack of direct visual confirmation of a direct biological relationship between us and UFO occupants, but indirect as well. However, this applies only to the ETH (extraterrestrial hypothesis) and not TTH (time travellers hypothesis).

IF UFOs are products of, and piloted by, "flesh and blood" alien beings, it is a reasonable assumption to say that their PARENT planet is not in our solar system, all historical evidence to the contrary (Lunar "bridges",

Martian "canals" etc.). The environmental conditions on all other solar system abodes are such that no creatures could evolve that would remotely resemble us; serve as our ancestors; adapt without apparent difficulty to our environmental conditions (gravity, atmospheric composition, etc.) as UFO occupants apparently do. Of course various solar system abodes (planets and/or satellites) could still serve as "outposts" for their activities; bases of arrival and departure, but that's a non-related point entirely.

Assuming therefore an original interstellar source for our extraterrestrial friends and ancestors (if that is what they are), there are only five ways in which they got to earth in the mass numbers suggested by the volume of CE3K reports (over 1500 with anywhere from 1 to 10% coming to public attention according to Hendry).

- 1) Multi-generation starships (long travel times)
- 2) Suspended animation (long travel times)
- 3) Velocities close to the speed of light (shorter travel times)
- 4) Unknown physics, including: (very short travel times)
 - a) Velocities greater than the speed of light
 - b) Hyper-space and warp drives
 - c) Black Holes, worm holes and white holes
 - d) Other?
- 5) Very lengthy alien lifespans making interstellar travel to "them" what what a typical modern day Antarctic expedition might be to us (that's one short travel time for "them"; one hell of a long time for us!

There is nothing impossible or even improbable with the first three, and only a very narrow-minded person who forgets that one day we will have a 21st, indeed 31st century science, would totally deny the fourth. The fifth possibility, as witnessed by the very lengthy lifespans of certain terrestrial organisms, is highly viable in plausibility. But those assessments offer nothing new - dozens of writers have speculated upon them in hundreds of articles. However, what is rarely considered is the possibility that different methodologies used by interstellar travelers are ideally suited to quite different goals, although there can be no hard and fast dividing lines! The goals I have in mind include: a) exploration (general); b) exploration (specific); c) exploitation; d) colonization. UFO occupants exhibit the second goal - highly specific exploration, with perhaps a bit of mucking around and experimentation on the side. We have no evidence of, or reason to believe that, extraterrestrials are in the solar neck of the woods to explore in general (when you have seen one G-star, cratered moon, gas giant, etc. you've seen them all); exploit our natural resources; or colonize our planetary system. We do tend to believe that interstellar spaceships would visit our backwoods corner of the galaxy not because our sun or planetary system is overly significant, but because ours is one of those rare systems with life, indeed intelligent life, on one of those tiny balls of rock. Thus, our alien friends are interested in the "Star Trek" goal - "to seek out new life and new civilizations...". What method of interstellar travel, or other circumstances (lifespan is a circumstance, not a method) factor this "Star Trek" theory?

Multi-generation starships are ideally suitable for establishing colonies in space and/or a means of reaching uninhabited worlds for planetary colonization after generations of searching for those abodes. Suspended animation is useful for exploration in general, where the target is selected in advance, and the longest and uninteresting parts of the journey are spent asleep. It would not be suitable for seeking out life forms which would be very thinly scattered among the stellar targets. One probably wouldn't know in advance which star system might just have a life form on the threshold of intelligence, perhaps technology. One wouldn't go through 999 cycles of false starts and stops before coming across that 1 in 1000 life bearing system. Suspended animation is also useful for exploitation - hauling cargo over vast interstellar distances (as in the science fiction novel and movie "Alien"), though I would suspect that automated ships would be even better.

Velocities near the speed of light are good for either colonization and/or general exploration, but not for star-to-star hopping in search of life,

unless the stars are packed very close together as in the centre of galaxies or globular clusters. We are in neither!

Velocity greater than the speed of light is ideal to "seek out new life and new civilisations. To boldly go where no extraterrestrial has gone before". In fact, that is the methodology the real "Star Trek" used! However, the entire spectrum of as yet undiscovered physics that will break down the "speed of light" barrier, so useful in science fiction, is of no use to us. It's bad enough spending time and energy speculating around in the dim twilight like I'm doing, without compounding speculation on the barely possible by heaping on the highly improbables on top of things. When AND IF our state of knowledge ever advances to the stage that scientists start taking seriously the overthrow of today's Einsteinian restrictions on faster than light travel, then that will result in a new ballgame. Until then....

Very lengthy alien life spans, in particular when coupled with high, but still sub-light velocities, would be the best bet going for highly specific exploration goals (as well as general interstellar exploration, colonization, etc.). To maintain incentive, when many targets need to be searched to insure a reasonable degree of success, then the goal should be obtainable in one lifespan. How many people would become professional scientists if on average experiments had to run for 500 years? The incentive, achieving success in a reasonable period of time, would be near zero. Thus.....

I personally support the idea that UFO occupants, if indeed they are extraterrestrial beings and seekers of "new life and new civilisations", would be blessed with very long (at least in our scale) lifespans. There is nothing impossible or even improbable about this. No super efforts needed to find us; enough time to return home and exchange findings with other similar "Star Trek" exploration teams. However, this would require lifespans many times longer than the typical human three score and ten years! This further suggests a dissimilar origin for Homo sapiens and extraterrestrial. Admittedly, the nagging reminder of alleged very lengthy Biblical lifespans remains to question this.

The significance, if proven, of human-alien interbreeding (or similarity in lifespans, appearances and any other biological characteristics) would be of tremendous importance to evolutionary biologists and physical anthropologists interested in the origin and evolution of the human species. However, based on current evidence (CE3K witness reports of UFO occupants) or the lack of it (a human-alien offspring), and some logical, not sensationalist, thinking and reporting, one can only conclude, subject of course to later change if new evidence comes to hand, that close encounters of the sexual kind are of more concern to the followers of Freud and Jung than to ufologists.

Mental Communications and Psychological Disturbance

by Mark Mcravec.

Some of the more exotic UFO reports involve claims of "mental communication" with UFO entities. On the surface, such reports suggest that selected people can communicate with non-human intelligences by means of "telepathy". An alternative explanation is that the people involved are psychologically disturbed and are merely describing delusions which have no basis in physical reality. In this article, I will look at a number of Australian "mental communication" cases and show how they can be interpreted as primarily due to psychological disturbance.

Case 1.

Mr. A. has had one major sighting of what he believes to be a UFO. One night he had a strong impulse to go to the local airport. He went onto the observation deck and saw a bright, round light in the sky; a light which "took off past the moon". The impulse to go to the airport was so strong that he got a headache.

Mr. A. has also had a number of more subjective experiences. He sometimes feels that "they" are controlling his mind against his will and directing him to do things which he doesn't want to do. Some nights Mr. A. has seen "invisible" beings near his bed. In one particular instance, he was awakened by the presence of an invisible being pointing to a burn mark (accidentally done when welding) on his forehead. He believes that the west coast of the USA will be destroyed by earthquakes or other natural disasters as punishment for the wickedness of man.

Can we accept the reporter's statements as a true and accurate portrayal of reality? In order to evaluate the case, we have to look at the person's reported experiences and how close these match up with the reported experiences of people who have been judged as psychologically disturbed. We also have to look at the reporter's background to see if there are any factors or crises which may have contributed to a psychological disturbance.

In this and the following cases, there are a number of experiences which are typical of those reported by "paranoid schizophrenics". According to traditional psychological definitions, paranoid schizophrenia involves disturbances in cognitive functioning. The individual may have delusions where real events are misinterpreted in a way which substantially differs from consensual reality and where these interpretations significantly influence the person's thoughts and behaviour. Less often, the individual may also have hallucinations where he "perceives" people, objects or events which do NOT physically exist; or fails to perceive people, objects or events which DO exist. Hallucinations may involve any of the five senses, though auditory and visual hallucinations (in that order) are the most frequent.

As the term suggests, the most common delusion of paranoid schizophrenics is a paranoid fear of being influenced and controlled by outside forces. Although common sense may initially suggest otherwise, a belief in a hostile world offers many psychological advantages. For one thing, a paranoid person is relieved of personal responsibility for his own situation. The blame for personal failures and wrongdoings is always placed upon somebody else. Paranoia can be viewed as a psychological defence mechanism which projects the individual's responsibility onto the external world. Another advantage of paranoia is that a person can make an uncertain world predictable. No longer does he have to battle with his own personal conflicts or with subtle social influences. The paranoid's "enemies" are clearcut - all he has to do is to fight "them", and then life will become rosy. However, because this is a delusion, he will never succeed. The paranoid individual gains a short-term comfort at the expense of obtaining long-term solutions to his problems.

In the case of Mr. A., the subjective experience of his mind being controlled by outside forces is typical of the paranoid individual. The "invisible" beings are hallucinations which help provide companionship and meaning to an isolated, alienated man. The predicted natural disasters are part of a pseudo-religious belief which functions to de-emphasise the individual's own weaknesses by emphasising the failings of other people.

There are a number of factors in the reporter's background which have probably contributed to his psychological disturbance. He is a 56-year-old migrant who lives alone in a small room with only the barest of essentials. He has trouble staying at jobs; sometimes fights the people there; "they're all against me, and I don't know why". He sometimes strikes out in frustration. In his home country, he sometimes wanted to kill himself "because it was all too much" for him. All these details show that Mr. A. has trouble coping with everyday life. His isolation, old age and the social dislocation of trying to settle in a new country have all probably contributed to his present state of affairs. His UFO sighting is only a low weight nocturnal light with no supporting witnesses or physical evidence. Since he has read much UFO literature with a preference for the "way out" type of articles, we can safely conclude that Mr. A. has merely incorporated UFO material into his delusions.

Case 2:

Mrs. B. claims to have had three UFO sightings. The first was 30 years ago when she and a girlfriend saw an unusual object or light on a clear summer day. In the most recent sighting, her home was "buzzed" as a light went slowly overhead, "hovered" for five minutes and then went slowly away. In addition to these sightings, the reporter claims a continuing series of bizzare experiences involving contact with, and harrassment by, unidentified entities or forces. Her experiences started some four years ago and were mostly centered in her home. She claims that items of clothing disappeared when she wanted to use them and then later reappeared. Electrical equipment broke down; the television went haywire. She receives peculiar phone calls from people with unusual, unrecognisable voices who tell her they've seen her, to come and meet them, or that they will come over and visit her. She is also under telepathic control to make telephone calls to strangers. She claims to be a medium and is occasionally taken over in deep trance, afterwards not being able to remember anything.

The reporter attributes other experiences to persecution by scientologists. She is controlled at a distance by an unidentified hypnotist who forces her to write "psychic" letters against her will and either post them or deliver them to a "contact" she refuses to name. Mrs. B. doesn't know when she is "under hypnosis" but other people notice she is acting differently. Thoughts not her own are being put into her head. She is watched all the time and is followed around by people in cars. "One day a garden truck tried to run over me". She believes the scientologists are trying to drive her crazy because she resists their attempts to get money out of her. It should be noted that Mrs. B's first and only contact with the scientologists (before the present "harrassment") was over 20 years ago.

Mrs. B. believes that other people (especially men) dislike her for no reason at all. Somehow she manages to "turn everyone off". She is blamed for anything that goes wrong and keeps losing her job. When she moved home, she received more strange telephone calls and she believes her phone was tapped. She then moved into a hotel in the same area and one day found her door smashed in. More recently, Mrs. B. claims to have been kidnapped and beaten by "entities". Incidentally, the reporter claims to have an unusually large aura and to be "psychic" like her mother.

The above data can be interpreted in either a ufological or a psychopathological framework. In the ufological framework, we can firstly take note of the three nocturnal light sightings. However, these are of a low weight and Mrs. B. was very vague on details. Secondly, the misplaced clothes could be interpreted as a poltergeist (teleportation) effect. The malfunctioning of electrical equipment also falls into line. However, there is no objective evidence supporting the reporter's claim. The communication with "entities" could be interpreted as contact with the UFO intelligence. However, the witness is unsure of who she is "in contact" with. The harrassment could be interpreted as an MIB-related manifestation. However, she attributes a large part of her harrassment to the scientologists and is unsure whether or not it is connected with her "UFO" sightings.

In the psychopathological framework, we can interpret the reporter's experiences as matching the "symptom pattern" of paranoid schizophrenia. Mrs. B. appears to have paranoid ideas of reference where she unjustifiably associates external events with herself. For example, the alleged harrassment by scientologists and entities; thoughts being put into her head by hypnosis; being forced to write letters; receiving threatening phone calls; being followed at night; even her disappearing clothes are seen as part of some conspiracy directed against her. She is projecting her own unacceptable thoughts and feelings onto other people and events so that it appears that she is being persecuted. The reporter has also had hallucinations. An example is the man who picked her up one night and who supposedly turned into a repulsive caterpillar right before her eyes. Her perception of self is also disturbed. She feels she has been taken over by other personalities

who must be pleased.

If the reporter of these experiences is going through a schizophrenic episode, what triggered it off? It is probably not a coincidence that these bizarre experiences started shortly after she was divorced four years ago. My impression is that the reporter was searching for a label for her experiences, i.e. as due to UFO entities, or the scientologists, or something else. As far as can be determined, all her reported experiences are completely subjective. Thus it is most likely that Mrs. B's experiences are due to a disturbed psychological state triggered off by her marriage breakup.

Case 3:

For many years, Mr. C. Claims to have seen "beautiful spiritual lights" coloured pink, green, blue or orange. The lights come down, stop in mid air and burst into many beautiful colours. The largest UFO he saw was a large ball of white light with a grey coloured central cabin. The object seemed to land close to a ridge. The reporter later discovered a "blasted" boulder which he connected with the light. Mr. C. wanted to go to bed but a "voice" said to him: "don't go, wait". He waited and "saw the most beautiful sight I could ever see" - white, zig-zagging lights. Mr. C. claims to have had several "voice" contacts. On a bushwalk, he heard a voice tell him which was the right path to take: "The track is on your left side....I said thank you whoever you are, turned left 20 feet and beheld the track, was it a UFO being who could bend light waves or was it a Spirit from the other side...."

Another time, the voice of his mother told him that he was on the wrong river. When he goes "deep into the UFO country" he receives the feeling that little friendly people are present and are guiding him deeper into the gorge. Mr. C. believes there may be a UFO base nearby and that he is a medium receiving the higher vibrations which others can't perceive. Amongst other subjective experiences, Mr. C. has had the feeling that someone was in the house with him and has had dreams in which he saw an "underground hanger". He claims to be able to track UFOs with divining rods and claims "spiritual gifts" of diving with rods for water and minerals, trance healings, automatic writing, reading flowers and teacups, voices and visions, ESP communications with animals and psychometry.

Now to an evaluation of the case. At least some of the UFO sightings appear to be explicable. The bursting lights could be flares. According to the witness himself, a television news report stated that the most spectacular sighting was actually of a meteorite. The possible physical evidence of the blasted boulder is unconfirmed. Mr. C's subjective experiences indicate a disturbed psychological state. The "voices" are most probably hallucinations. This is especially indicated by the incident involving his mother's voice which functioned to provide comfort and reassurance to him whilst in his isolated mode of existence. The man's background indicates difficulties in coping with life. At age 49 he had a nervous breakdown after his marriage broke up. He now lives alone, except for his dog. He owns his own home and people call him a "Pension Bludger". In one of his letters, Mr. C. asks: "Why me why?? Who am I, just a battler through life, hated all my life, but have kept as far out in front as I could." In conclusion, Mr. C's experiences appear to consist of delusions and hallucinations associated with misinterpretations of mundane lights and incorporating UFO and psychic lore. His marriage breakup, his profound isolation and his advanced years have probably all contributed to his current state of affairs.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE.

UFO CONFERENCE 5 (UFOCON 5 - 1980)

This year's annual UFO conference, UFOCON 5 will be held at the Belconnen Way Hotel, Belconnen Way Hawker (Canberra) A.C.T. on November 29-30 & December 1. Representatives of all major Australian UFO Research organisations will be meeting over these three days, to discuss methods of investigation and research. Public observers will be permitted to sit in on the three days, however will NOT be permitted to actually participate.

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by John Prytz.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

Note: The topic of artificial intelligence, although always popular in science fiction, has recently been brought to the masses via the film industry. It was the backbone of STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE'S interstellar confrontation; who can forget the intelligent "robots" in STAR WARS and Disney's THE BLACK HOLE? To the UFO buff, artificial intelligence is topical as a) some CE3K cases have "robot" connotations; b) UFO's have been often suggested as being controlled in some cases by/or artificial intelligences in their own right; and c) the use of artificially intelligent interstellar space probes has been suggested by some SETI - Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence - experts as the way to go in terms of not only interstellar explorations but as "go-betweens" in establishing contact between extraterrestrial civilisations. Hence, this bibliography on artificial intelligence.

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ODDS AND ENDS:

CORRECTION: In the last issue of the ACUFOS Journal, we stated that the annual subscription rate to the Australian UFO Newsletter was \$8. That should have read \$9 per annum (Australia) and \$10.50 (overseas).

AUSTRALIAN UFO COMPUTER FILE: A limited supply of the last printout is still available containing most sightings in Australia up to 1978. Cost of the Printout as well as the current codebook is \$4. Only 8 copies left. Available from ACUFOS, P.O. Box 546 GOSFORD NSW 2250 AUSTRALIA.

THANKS TO TUFOIC: Mr. A. Cole, ACUFOS Computer Operator has asked us to convey his thanks to TUFOIC, who have now completed coding ALL Their UFO reports which are now on the computer File. TUFOIC's cases date back as far as 1946. Great work TUFOIC.

AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. REPORTS:

QB80003 2045 Miriwinni 15-1-80 UFO Research (FNQ)

At approximately 8.45 p.m. Miss B. was sitting on the front lawn of her home looking at the "three sisters" (Belt of Orion). She saw a very bright coloured light, the colour of coconut ice, detach itself from the northern most star of the three and move to the star next to it (probably M78) and overlayed that star. The witness then raced inside to get some friends. When Miss B. and Miss L. came outside again, the object could not be seen against the star where it had stopped. Within a few moments, it began moving again. It moved south across the sky, did a U-turn around another star, and moved slightly NW before gaining altitude and disappearing. During this leg of its movement the object showed definite colour changes from white/silver to red to blue and it was white when it disappeared.

QB80008 1845 Cairns 25-2-80 UFO Research (FNQ)

The witness, Mrs.C. states as follows: "On Monday night, I came out to put out our milk bottles and money. When I got outside, I looked out towards the NE towards the airport approaches and saw an orange light moving slowly in a horizontal course. After seeing this light, I saw what looked like an aircraft's lights flashing a short distance ahead, although probably a long way behind. I looked away for no more than a minute and when I looked up again, the plane was moving out of sight into the distance and this light appeared to be following its path. The light then dimmed and stopped. I thought perhaps it went into some cloud although I could not see any. The light again started moving and went the same way as the plane out towards the NE, disappearing into the distance. The light was round and orange in colour and it moved about the same speed as the plane.

SA80004 0253 Tea Tree Gully 1-4-80 UFO Research (SA)

The witness, Mrs. T. arose at about 0253 to put out a young puppy dog to answer the call of nature. She put on the outdoor light and took the dog onto the back lawn. For some reason she happened to look up into the sky and there observed a most unusual light. Watching for a few moments she stood there puzzled before deciding she needed her spectacles which were inside the house on top of the fridge. She fetched her glasses, put them on and went outside to view the object. The object appeared to be a "mushroom" shaped thing with lighter roughly circular patches at places inside the shape. She watched it for several more moments before deciding to get her husband to come and have a look. She had in this time noted that the object was in the sky framed by two trees in the rear of the garden and appeared to be moving to the left in a stop/go jerking manner. Arising, her husband followed her out to the garden but by the time they arrived, the object had gone. After waiting and looking for a few moments they both retired to bed.